

REMARKS

Claims 19 through 28 have been added. Claims 1 through 18 have been cancelled. Claim 19 is in independent form.

An objection has been raised to claims 21 and 28 with regard to the use of the terms "said distribution channel" because this element lacks antecedent basis. Applicant has amended these two claims to correct an inadvertent mistake. The element has been renamed to "said distribution chamber," which finds antecedent basis in claim 19. Therefore, Applicant respectfully traverses this objection.

Claim 19 stands rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent 4,561,732, issued to Japes ("the '732 reference"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The '732 reference discloses a system for cleaning a mirror secured to the side of a motor vehicle. The cleaning system is a compressed air system that pushes air along the mirror surface to remove water and dirt that accumulates thereon. The nozzle for the system is disposed adjacent the top edge of the mirror surface.

Claim 19, as amended to clarify the invention, claims a cleaning assembly for a mirror assembly having a mirror with at least two edges. The cleaning assembly includes a nozzle that has a nozzle opening including an oblong channel for receiving a portion of each of the first and second edges thereagainst. The cleaning assembly sends a liquid over the mirror surface at a location that spans portions of two edges of the mirror.

While the '732 reference discloses a system that shoots air over the mirror surface, it does so along one edge. The use of air and the direction in which the air is sent over the mirror surface is inferior and does not adequately clean the mirror surface.

In contradistinction, claim 19, as amended, clearly claims a cleaning system that directs fluid out over the mirror surface from two different edges of the mirror surface. This dual direction of dispersion helps clean the mirror surface in a much better fashion.

The Examiner has cited a Japanese reference having publication number JP 03284450 A (the “ ’450 reference”) as a reference that shows a nozzle that sends fluid over a mirror surface over two edges. Applicant respectfully disagrees with this characterization of the disclosure. By viewing the drawings, it can be clearly seen that the ’450 reference discloses a nozzle that send fluid over a single edge of the mirror surface. While Applicant concedes that this edge is not perpendicular to either the top or side edges of the mirror surface, the edge is still a single edge of the mirror surface.

Claim 19 claims the nozzle opening extending over two edges of the mirror surface. The multidirectional release of the fluid facilitates a better distribution of the fluid over the mirror surface. Even though the nozzle of the ’450 reference is at an angle, it does not initiate the distribution of fluid by sending it over the mirror surface in two different directions.

Therefore, Applicant believes claim 19, as amended to clarify the invention, and all claims depending therefrom overcome the rejections set forth by the Examiner with regard to the ’732 and the ’450 references.

It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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